



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **MARCH 19, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Bacio called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Commissioner Bacio led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absences

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vito Cannella

Others Present

Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health
Carla Carr, L.A. County Auditor-Controller
Commander Detta Roberts, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Captain Warren Asmus, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing
Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing

Staff

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Bacio welcomed the Department Representatives and Guests, introductions followed:

Sheriff's Department:

Commander Detta Roberts reported the following:

- The Jail Expansion Program has been placed on the Board of Supervisors agenda for approval at the April 8, 2008 meeting.
- Projects that are part of the Jail Expansion Program include the demolition and rebuilding of both the Sybil Brand Institution and the Pitchess Detention Center. The Mira Loma facility will be remodeled for expansion.
- The inmate capacity projected for the Sybil Brand Institute is 1,000 inmates and 1,200 for Pitchess Detention Center.
- Commander Dave Fender will replace Commander Detta Roberts as the Sheriffs' Department Representative at the Sybil Brand Commission business meetings beginning April 16, 2008.

Commissioner Hall joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Captain Warren Asmus reported the following:

- There are 40 projects in progress at court lock-up facilities for FY 2008-09 with 15 of them given "major" status.
- The "Compton Courthouse Secondary Containment Project" is completed and awaiting staff assignments.
- Cuffing ports are being upgraded at the Criminal Courts Building and will eventually be upgraded at additional courthouses throughout the County.
- Gun lockers are being equipped with combination locks to replace key locks, which have posed a security hazard for jailers.
- Video surveillance equipment is being upgraded at all facilities.
- The Department has a monthly maintenance committee that meets with ISD and other Departments to discuss facility improvements.
- The Long Beach Courthouse floor is earmarked to be repaired for two (2) floors, budgeted at \$2,500 each at a total expense of \$5,000 for FY 2008-2009.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following:

- Five Acres (page 20, #3) will be closed September, 2008.
- Both M & R Group Homes in Pomona have been placed on the "Do Not Use" list.
- The Department gives the Auditor-Controller a list of Group Homes it plans on inspecting 3 to 4 weeks in advance. In order to prevent over-inspection the Commission requested a list be sent to them, also, and Ms. Howard promised she would.
- In response to questions from the Commission about the youth from Ha're Johns Paradise Group Home, the Children's Social Worker (CSW) speaks with the group home about placing the youth in an Independent Living Program (ILP) so the youth will be productively employed.

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following:

- The youth from Wings Group Home had a delay in his placement to a transitional living facility because he was given a choice between several homes and needed time to make a decision.

Probation Department: No representative was present.

Department of Auditor-Controller:

Ms. Carla Carr reported the following:

- The Childrens' Homes of Southern California in on Valerio Street in Van Nuys is being investigated because of problems between resident youth and group home staff.

Department of Mental Health:

Mr. Paul McIver reported the following:

- All state hospitals for adolescents are now closed. There is a dispute between the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Developmental Disabilities over the placement of the last client.
- The State has reduced Medi-Cal funding by 10%, consequently additional work and services will be performed by the Department to compensate for the reduction.
- The Department has filed a Letter of Intent with the State to implement a program monitoring the progress of post-inmates. If the proposal is approved, it will take over a year to implement.

- Mental Health services for youth are available through the Community Based Program from DCFS.

Internal Services Department: No representative was present.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Ms. Angelica Lopez reported the following:

- The San Gabriel Children's Center was ordered to have their Needs and Services Plan on file at the location. The home filed an appeal requesting the files be stored at the corporate office rather than on-site.
- The Hudson Lyndsey home will be placed on the "Do Not Use" list.

Mr. Alan Henry reported the following:

- The Children Are Our Future group home has been in compliance.
- CCL will look into the case regarding the youth at Ha're Johns Paradise Group Home.

Commissioner Bacio and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the minutes of March 12, 2008 were approved, with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was none.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,118.23.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services informed the Commission that the amended letter to the Honorable Sheriff Baca was sent on March 14, 2008.

INVITED GUEST, JENNIFER LEHMAN, COUNTY COUNSEL

Item deferred to April 2, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM MARCH 12, 2008 TO MARCH 18, 2008

David V. Kenyon Juvenile Center – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

The facility was visited on March 13, 2008, and found to be in less than satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Metal toilets needed; north gate is still broken; exterior video surveillance equipment and additional staff are needed.

Youth Beacon, Inc. – 63, #3 - Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on March 18, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: No computers available.

Bourne Inc. Home – 4, #3 – Commissioner Stathatos

The facility was visited on March 18, 2008, and found to be in poor condition.

Areas of Concern: Home in potential brush fire area, brush not cleared away; Needs and Services Plan not located on-site; bedrooms poorly kept; bathrooms too small; walls not decorated.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bacio adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division